

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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City council enacts \$387 million budget

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Despite having to make some of the severest budget cuts in more than a decade, the city council still managed to hand out millions in funding to community groups.

City council members voted unanimously on Tuesday to adopt next year's \$387.3 million budget, which contains more than \$20 million in deferred capital improvements and at least a 2.5 percent reduction in spending across every city department.

The city had to undergo some serious belt-tightening to make up for a nearly \$9

million loss in sales tax revenue because of the declining economy. Santa Monica officials also are preparing for further reductions in state funding when California adjusts its budget next November.

However, the city council was able to help out a half-dozen community causes with money from its "discretionary fund," a pool of money left to the city council to divvy out for special one-time community causes.

The vast majority of the council's \$1.7 million went to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school district. The city council

See COUNCIL, page 5

City considers banning smoking in public parks

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The city is considering snuffing out smoking in its public parks.

A proposal to prohibit smoking within 25 feet of children's playgrounds — or banning the practice entirely — throughout the city's parks will be debated at tonight's Recreation and Parks Commission meeting.

Many commission members said there is a lot of support in the city for such a ban.

"I just feel very strongly about this issue," said Neil Carrey, a recreation and parks commissioner. "I'm going to go into the meeting with an open mind, but it would take an amazing argument by

someone to convince me to vote against something like this."

The state enacted legislation that took effect in January which forbids smoking in playgrounds. The law also allows municipalities to extend smoke-free zones to the entire park or just certain areas. It has not yet been decided if the ban would include all parks in the city, including beach areas, or just near playgrounds.

Public officials worry about the effects second-hand cigarette smoke may have on children playing nearby. Recent studies suggest second-hand smoke contains more chemicals that are suspected carcinogens than previously believed.

"I think whether it's in character with

See SMOKING, page 6

Oil giant BP-ARCO agrees to \$45.8M legal settlement

By staff and wire reports

SACRAMENTO — Oil giant BP-ARCO has agreed to pay \$45.8 million to settle alleged widespread underground gasoline storage tank violations, including the nation's largest cash penalty in the enforcement of tank regulations, state Attorney General Bill Lockyer said Wednesday.

The settlement concludes a two-year investigation that found BP-owned Atlantic Richfield Co. failed to make

required safety improvements at 59 service stations from Sacramento and Marysville south to San Diego, Lockyer said.

The company falsely certified that its underground fuel tanks and pipes had been leak-proofed, he alleged, although BP spokeswoman Cheryl Burnett said company officials acted in good faith. ARCO, the state's largest gasoline supplier, merged with London-based BP Amoco in April 2000.

See ARCO, page 5

Intersection collision



John Wood/Special to the Daily Press

Paramedics place a woman on a stretcher after a car accident on Wednesday.

By Daily Press Staff

Two cars collided at Fourth Street and Wilshire Boulevard on Wednesday afternoon, although no serious injuries were reported.

At 4:30 p.m., two cars smashed into each other while they both trying to make red lights through the intersection.

The driver of one car, a middle-aged woman in a red Sterling who was heading west on Wilshire, was placed on a stretcher and taken to the hospital in a neck brace.

The driver of the other car, who was making a left hand turn onto Fourth Street in his Toyota Camry seemed unhurt.

"I'm more afraid for the lady," he said. "She didn't have airbags."

Santa Monica Police Officer Whitaker, who rushed to the scene along with dozens of emergency personnel, warned against an all-too-familiar tendency.

"People think a yellow light means hurry up and get through," he said. "That's why it happened. That's why they all happen."

School district to propose \$300 parcel tax hike for residents

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica voters will be asked to shell-out \$300 more in parcel taxes next year.

An ad-hoc committee created by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District recommended this week the district place an initiative on the November ballot that would raise parcel taxes roughly 300 percent over the \$100 property owners currently pay.

The committee authorized a telephone poll of 500 residents that found 57 percent would support a \$300 parcel tax increase. The district will need a two-thirds approval by voters for the tax to take effect.

Due to a dramatic decrease in state funding, the school district faces a \$4.5 million budget deficit this year. Through severe cutbacks and an additional \$1.5 million from Santa Monica, the school district will be able to balance its books this year.

However, district officials anticipate another \$5.7 million budget deficit next year and they warn without the parcel tax increase the district will have to make even more drastic cuts.

Parcel taxes are flat fees charged to property owners, which also can be passed along to renters of apartments.

Besides state funds and annual donations from Santa Monica and Malibu — the two cities that comprise the school district — money from parcel taxes is how the school district pays for providing education.

There are 32,413 parcels in the two cities, and the increased parcel tax rate would annually give the school district an additional \$9.6 million. However the tax would not go into effect until next fiscal year, beginning in July.

The final version of the ballot initiative will be presented to the school board for approval at its June 27 meeting.

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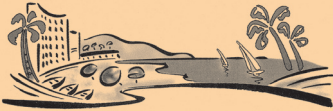
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Work with each person individually. Others cannot help but feel pleased by all your attention. Listen well to another's sharing. Your vision of what needs to happen transforms as a result of the talk. Don't hold your feelings back. Tonight: Make nice.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might not have certain matters as under control as you think you do. Another could launch into a wild diatribe or do something far-out. Just enjoy the moment, giving up any uptightness. Tonight: Where the folks are.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others listen when you speak. You like that kind of responsiveness. Investigate other possibilities involving your work, especially if you don't feel as if your potential is being fulfilled. Fast changes seem more than possible. Tonight: Take a hard look in the mirror. Is it time for exercise?



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You're able to settle someone down, especially if he or she feels a bit uptight. Very carefully consider your options surrounding a child or loved one. Funds might be involved here. How you let another know that he or she is cared about is up to you. Tonight: Start kicking back and enjoying yourself.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your opinions count. Others seek you out. In some way, you might feel like everyone's counselor or adviser. Take time for yourself, even if it means going home for lunch or closing your door. Remember, you won't be good for anyone if you're not OK. Tonight: Let the phone go to the answering machine.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Speak your mind in a fashion that others can understand. You might want to keep a grievance to yourself, just for now. Work with a boss or older relative as if he or she is the most important person in your world. Later, in a few days or weeks, express a personal issue. Tonight: Pick up the phone and make weekend plans.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Be a quick study. Become a money wizard before you get into trouble. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Review a matter that involves a child or loved one. A friend gives an unusually caring perspective. Think through a decision. Tonight: HapPy as a clam.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Seize the moment and help family members get past resistances. Consider options that surround a wonderfully special offer. This situation could involve work. Carefully check out this option. Tonight: Beam in whatever makes you happy.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Take your time. Someone makes a request that you don't really need to think about; just do it. Someone else might tempt you with quite an offer. Remember, there is nothing wrong with sharing deeper feelings. Others respond to your openness. Tonight: Catch up on e-mail.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Don't make anything more formal or difficult than need be. A meeting could be more meaningful than you considered. Use your imagination when choosing a gift for a partner or a new friend. You don't need to spend a lot to delight this person. Tonight: Where your friends are.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your imagination takes you to another level. Others seek you out because of your strong imagination and your other creative qualities. You can be sure about another's affection or attraction. Just look at how he or she behaves around you! Tonight: Work as late as you need to.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ News puts a smile on your face. Recognize how deeply someone feels about you, be it because of the quality of your work or your positive attitude. Touch base with different friends in the afternoon. Do research, and you'll get important information. Tonight: Think vacation.



QUOTE of the DAY

“Everybody likes a kidder,
but nobody lends him money.”

— Arthur Miller

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LOCAL

Lunch time



Carolyn Sakariason/Daily Press

Workers take a lunch break Wednesday at the Santa Monica Public Safety Building.



Small, steep wind swell waves show at northwest exposures today. Average waves measure waist high, some inconsistent chest highs on good sets. Expect glassy conditions during the morning. Afternoon will be blown out.

Southwest facing breaks will be the flattest; ankle to waist high at Malibu and Topanga.

Water is warm, low 60s, and beach advisories look good.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Tides:	12:54am Low / 0.6'	6:45am High / 3.7'	12:10pm High / 3.7'
			6:46pm High / 6.0'

The Q Line

Last week marked the seven-month anniversary of the Santa Monica Daily Press. And while we have put our fingers on the pulse of this town, we don't have a slogan to call our own. You may have seen us use various lines on the front page, but nothing has stuck.

That's why we need your help. This week's Q-Line question is, "What should

our slogan be?" If your suggestion is selected, the winner will receive gift certificates to various restaurants throughout town.

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

City celebrates Huck Finn Day at Reed Park

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Jaycees will stage its 47th Huck Finn Day this Saturday at Reed Park.

The Jaycees is a local non-profit organization dedicated to the development of individual leadership skills and community service.

Scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., the fun-filled affair will showcase local youths ages 3 to 10 enjoying live trout fishing, pie-eating contests, three-legged races (for parent and child), sno cones and a caricature artist.

Representatives from the Santa Monica Police and Fire Departments will be on hand to offer safety awareness demonstrations and information, tours of official vehicles, including a talking car, and a visit from Sparky the Fire dog. All activities are free, and prizes will be awarded for fishing, pie-eating and the three-legged race.

"Huck Finn Day is the Santa Monica Jaycees, our oldest community event that the organization puts on annually," said Nicole Swirsky, president of the Santa Monica Jaycees. "The ongoing success of Huck Finn Day can be attributed to the high-quality planning and execution of the Jaycees, dedicated group of volunteers, as well as the sheer enjoyment of the experience that local children and parents have come to expect from the event year in and year out."

Individuals interested in attending Huck Finn Day or obtaining additional information about the event are encouraged to contact the Santa Monica Jaycees at (310) 260-9936.

Reed Park is located in Santa Monica on Wilshire Boulevard between Seventh Street and Lincoln Boulevard. Signage and volunteers will direct attendees to the portion of the park where the principal festivities will be held.

The Jaycees is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing men and women, ages 21 to 39, with opportunities to develop personal and leadership skills through local community service and organizational activities. The group designs and coordinates various service projects each year that enable its members to grow through success and failure in a positive environment. The association also holds seminars on time management, managerial techniques, personal and professional motivation, and leadership dynamics to enhance the overall capabilities of its civic-minded membership.

Music programs awarded cash

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club has awarded the school district's music scholarship program with \$6,600.

The awards are divided into three divisions — middle school, ninth and 10th grades and 11th and 12th grades. The two categories are instrumental and vocal. Twenty four awards were given Wednesday at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. All judging is done by independent adjudicators from the southern California area.

The first place winners are:

Sally Sachs - instrumental, Carl Schoelhammer - instrumental, Alissa Escarce - instrumental, Tara Davison - vocal, Emma Korvin - vocal, Erwin C. Perkins - vocal

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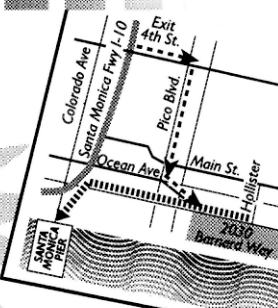
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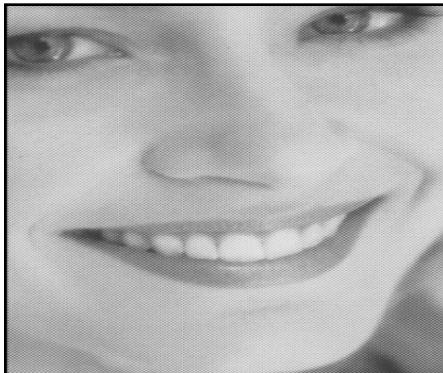
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OPINION

LETTERS

A 'King Denny ditty'

Editor:

Santa Monica was a great lil' berg by the sea,
Till King Denny was crowned, as he frowned and said,
This place is too good for just you and for me,
It must be renowned and plated with gold, for the whole world to see,
Too good for just you and for me.

So King Denny beckoned wise guys from far and from wide,
They came with their cameras, they came with their scribes,
These wise guys from far and from wide, arrived at high tide
They thought and they thunk till they fell stinking drunk,
And said yes dear King Denny we all agree,
This sweet little berg is just too good for you and for me.

Very well, said this snide King he, so it shall be,
A Vibrant city of silver and gilt, shiny and new,
To lure weary travelers from across the far sea,
To fill up my coffers with Green and with gold,
To hire more wise guys to fill up my ears with what I wish to be told,
This place is too good for just you and for me.

Thus came treasure, thus came gold, thus came gridlock,
Thus came an ill tide of thousands sleeping in the streets,
Thus came the frowns upon Denny's throngs,
He thought and he thunk till he fell stinking drunk,
He hired yet more wise guys from far and from wide,
And still his subjects grew restive, as he hired yet more,
To fill up his ears with exactly those words,
This place is just too good for you and for me.

Steve Keats
Santa Monica

Who's out of control?

Editor:

Once again reporter Andrew Fixmer appears to be an advocate for the home owners "Voluntary Zoning Initiative." While he repeats his own third paragraph appeal for signatures for the ill-advised measure, (see SM Daily Press, June 11 & 13) he conveniently omits the fact that nearly two-thirds of the speakers (see SM Mirror June 12-18) at the City Council hearing supported the Landmark Commission's unanimous denial of the inappropriate Third Street historic district garage.

The vast majority of the speakers actually live in the district. The City Council upheld the Commission's decision in a 6 to 1 bi-partisan vote. This occurred despite a massive disinformation campaign directed at a completely different neighborhood nearly three miles away. This campaign was organized by the "voluntary zoning" anti-preservation advocates.

And they say the Landmarks Commission is "out of control"!

Roger Genser
Landmarks Commissioner

Airport noisier than ever

Editor:

Thank you for your story in today's SMDP regarding the noise from planes flying in and out of Santa Monica Airport. While not meaning to disagree with some of the residents whose homes surround the airport who indicate that there has been a reduction in noise pollution from planes, my experience has been just the opposite. The noise from jets using the airport has increased markedly within the last six months, a pattern I hope will not continue. It was rare for me to hear planes at all for about two years, but, now, I am acutely aware of the expanding numbers of jets flying overhead. I don't know whether they use a different flight pattern, or, whether it is just that they are louder, but the noise from them is becoming increasingly disturbing.

I wonder about the effectiveness of fines for violations when 19 or so remain unpaid, and the planes continue to operate.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

LOCAL



City finds funds for SMPD's mounted patrol

COUNCIL, from page 1

awarded \$1.5 million to the school district to help off-set an extreme reduction in financial aid from the state.

Council members also invested \$200,000 in an overseas advertising campaign aimed at drumming up Santa Monica's tourism and an additional \$50,000 to operate a newly created visitor's bureau located in the Santa Monica Place Mall.

The Convention and Visitor's Bureau had asked for \$250,000 for the advertising campaign and \$150,000 for its visitor's booth, but bureau executive director Misti Kerns said her agency could make due with what the council has given it.

"In Santa Monica, our boat is floated by tourists," said Councilman Robert Holbrook. "They spend a lot of money in this city and it's very important that we have a healthy tourist industry."

"It's kind of like gardening — if we don't take care of it now it won't be here in the spring," he added.

In Santa Monica, tourism is a \$500 million business that helps support many of the local mom and pop stores. When the current recession and the fallout from Sept. 11 dried up the Santa Monica's year-round tourism trade, the city lost millions in anticipated tax revenue from sales and hotel rooms.

Councilman Richard Bloom said he viewed giving extra funding to the bureau as an investment in the city's economy and a way to protect it from future economic hardships.

"We need to invigorate the economy here, and we need to do it quickly," he said.

The council also found \$75,000 to help save the Santa Monica Playhouse, which is trying to raise \$500,000 to buy its downtown theater. If the group can't raise the necessary amount of money by the end of the year, theater officials say they will have to leave the city.

Not including the city council's money, the theater has raised \$80,000 from its supporters. If the group cannot come up with enough money to purchase the theater, the money would be returned to the city.

"We are very excited, but we still have a lot of work left ahead of us," said Chris DeCarlo, the theater's artistic director. "But at least now we have our local lead funder, and that's going to go a long way toward helping us raise enough money."

Additionally, the city council gave \$22,400 in matching funds to the Santa Monica Historical Society for its ambitious project to catalogue the articles and photographs from the defunct Outlook newspaper.

And after a crowd-pleasing speech from June Lockhart, who is known for her roles as Timmy's mother in the television series "Lassie" and for her role as the mother in "Lost in Space," the city found \$33,000 to continue funding the Santa Monica Police Department's mounted horse patrol.

"Keep the beautifully mounted police horses," Lockhart said. "They are literally worth their weight in gold."

ARCO sued by city for leaking MTBE in wells

ARCO, from page 1

ARCO is paying \$25 million in direct civil penalties and to cover investigation and enforcement costs, and \$20.8 million for improvements to its tanks.

Two years ago Santa Monica sued 18 refiners, manufacturers and suppliers of MTBE and MTBE-laden gasoline for allowing the chemical to leak into its ground water. BP-ARCO is one of the companies targeted in the city's suit.

Methyl tertiary-Butyl Ether is a colorless chemical that at very low concentrations smells like turpentine and is a suspected carcinogen. The state was scheduled to ban the additive, though California Gov. Gray Davis has delayed instituting the ban.

The pollution closed seven of Santa Monica's 11 wells, forcing the city to import about 80 percent of the 12 million gallons of water it uses a day. Until the ground water is cleaned up, the oil companies are paying \$3.5 million a year to import drinking water to the city.

Cleaning up the city's wells and building a water treatment facility has been estimated to cost several hundred million dollars.

Though the oil companies were successful in moving the trial to an Orange County court, the city has won every challenge to its lawsuit and the extent of damages they are seeking.

BP-ARCO also agreed to monitoring

and inspection of its 1,178 ARCO stations in California. Any station found in violation will be closed immediately until improvements are completed, but Lockyer said he believes all have now been upgraded.

The settlement was filed Wednesday in San Francisco Superior Court, and also settles allegations that the company violated San Francisco certification requirements. It does not settle allegations involving actual leaking gasoline that are pending in Orange County and elsewhere.

Lockyer alleged the company ignored requirements or misrepresented that upgrades had been completed while ARCO kept selling gas at the 59 stations, taking advantage of a law that allowed companies to self-certify that they were in compliance.

That gave ARCO an unfair business advantage by postponing closures and upgrade costs, and hiring contractors after the rush by other companies to meet the deadline, he said.

Burnett said more than 100 agencies oversee the tanks in California, leading to differences in interpreting regulations that resulted in some of the allegations.

ARCO spent more than \$100 million since 1985 upgrading its tanks in California, she said. Gas stations had 10 years to meet a Dec. 22, 1998, deadline to upgrade their tanks. The company temporarily shut down 72 stations until repairs were made, Burnett said.

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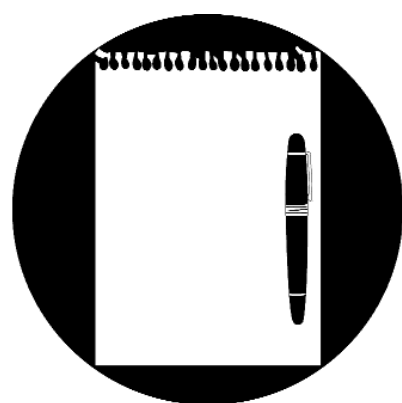
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LOCAL

Local Sports

Santa Monica Softball Standings

Women's Softball League

1. Lonnie's Angels	10 - 2
2. Good Question	9 - 2
3. Gabes	8 - 4
4. Players	8 - 4
5. Happy Campers	6 - 6
6. Brats	5 - 7
7. Slice	5 - 7
8. Never Enuff	5 - 7
9. Cleavage	4 - 8
10. Chalupas	3 - 8
11. Misfits	2 - 10

Coed "A" League Softball

1. Un Cut Diamonds	9 - 3
2. Black Sox	8 - 4
3. Coyotes	7 - 5
4. No Comments	6 - 6
5. Machine	5 - 7
6. UFB	1 - 11

Coed "B" League Softball

1. Hurricanes	9 - 3
2. Field of Nightmares	8 - 4
3. KaPow!	6 - 6
4. Big Dogs	6 - 6
5. Right Stuff	4 - 8
6. Flaming Butts	3 - 9

Coed "C+" League Softball

1. Out Laws	8 - 4
2. Gus	8 - 4
3. Cougars	7 - 5
4. Murphy's Law	6 - 6
5. Big Dogiritas	4 - 8
6. Commitment	3 - 8

Coed "C-" League Softball

1. Marina Music	12 - 0
2. Bull Slapper	9 - 3
3. Weekend Warrior	8 - 4
4. Road Runners	7 - 5

5. Saint Johns	5 - 7
6. First United Methodist	4 - 8
7. Divine Intervention	3 - 9
8. Bainkees	0 - 12

Men's Tuesday "B" League Softball

1. Mustang	1 - 0
2. Catholic Girls	1 - 0
3. Skip Ac	1 - 0
4. Sports Harbor	0 - 0
5. Over/Under	0 - 1
6. Shack	0 - 1
7. Softball Vigilantes	0 - 1

Men's Tuesday "C" League Softball

1. x PENN	1 - 0
2. Damaged Goods	1 - 0
3. Rip Tide	1 - 0
4. Lolly Gaggers	0 - 0
5. 14 Below	0 - 1
6. OBriens	0 - 1
7. Hit Men	0 - 1

Men's Wednesday "C+" League Softball

1. Ba da Bing	1 - 0
2. Coyotes	1 - 0
3. Prime Time	1 - 0
4. Back Crackers	0 - 0
5. Old Look	0 - 1
6. Revengers	0 - 1
7. Raving Maniacs	0 - 1

Men's Wednesday "C" League Softball

1. Spiders	1 - 0
2. Buffos	1 - 0
3. Karma	1 - 0
4. Black Sox	0 - 0
5. Warriors	0 - 1
6. Big Deans	0 - 1
7. Sonny Mcleans	0 - 1z

Restrictive anti-smoking measures to be debated

SMOKING, from page 1

Santa Monica or not, this is an item that's being brought to the attention of people across the country," said Frank Schwengel, chair of the city's recreation and parks commission. "The anti-smoking people are having a lot of success."

Councilman Richard Bloom, who is the city council's liaison to the Recreation and Park's Commission, said banning smoking in parks may be only the first step in enacting stricter anti-smoking ordinances citywide.

He wants to ban smoking on outdoor patios at restaurants and bars as well.

"Second-hand smoke is still a big issue," he said. "There are more places that I think it would be a good idea to restrict smoking."

Beverly Hills banned smoking in its parks this year.

And the Los Angeles City Council is considering legislation that would ban smoking within 25 feet of where children play.

"It pretty much addresses the effects of second hand smoke on kids and tries to prevent them from being around it," said Bara King, coordinator of the Los Angeles' taskforce for smoke-free zones.

"So that would go for parks, playfields, bleachers, all of the sports courts — just about anywhere children could be playing," she said.

Los Angeles' ordinance would even forbid smoking at dog runs, public swimming pools and golf courses.

Beverly Hills and Los Angeles officials were convinced by the Committee for Smoke-free Zones, which is leading tonight's discussion. The organization is currently working with 10 other municipalities in Southern California on creating bans in their cities.

"It's a bonus for public health," said Robert Berger, a committee member. "Especially around playgrounds and playfields, it just doesn't fit in with those types of family events."

Berger said recent polls taken by the committee show that while below 20 percent of the state smokes, 93 percent of the population agrees with more restrictive smoking prohibitions.

"Even the people that smoke tell us they would agree to more restrictions," he said.

The practice of banning smoking in public areas has become more common in recent years. Smoking already has been banned in office buildings, commercial airplanes, and in California, at restaurants and bars.

The recreation and parks commission will make a recommendation to the city council, which has final approval on such an ordinance.

Tonight's meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center, located at 1527 Fourth Street.

STATE



Micro-pollution standards may be strictest in nation

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — The California Air Resources Board will consider amending the state's air quality standards for microscopic pollutants to make them the world's strictest.

The revised health standards to be considered Thursday concern a class of pollutants made up of particles of soot and dust one-seventh the diameter of a human hair or smaller.

The tiny particles have been linked to the deaths of thousands of Californians each year.

The revised standards could exceed those set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency but would lack the penalties contained in federal law.

"The state standards don't have the teeth of the federal standards. But they are the state's definition of what healthy air is, and as such we will work to attain them," said Air Resources Board spokesman Jerry Martin.

The proposed amendments would target the state's annual ambient air quality standard for particles smaller than 10 microns in diameter, or so-called PM10s. A human hair is about 70 microns in width.

The Air Resources Board estimates that 99 percent of Californians are exposed to air that on an average daily basis exceeds current health standards for PM10.

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, a lobbyist for the American Lung Association of California, said those standards have not been reviewed for 20 years.

"Since then, there have been hundreds of new studies on premature mortality, emergency room visits, school absences and other health impacts related to elevated particle levels in the air," Holmes-Gen said.

Last month, the Environmental Working Group, a Washington, D.C., advocacy organization, claimed particulate pollution kills 9,300 Californians a year.

The Air Resources Board estimated that 2,431 tons of the dust and soot were emitted each day in California in 2001 from

sources including farms, construction sites, wildfires and the tailpipes of cars, trucks and buses. Dust from roads is the largest single source of the particulate pollution.

The board will consider dropping the annual average standard to 20 micrograms per cubic meter of air, from the current 30. Standards for daily averages would remain unchanged.

Cass Andary, director of regulatory programs for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said the Southfield, Mich., group opposes the new standards.

"Any time you have an ambient air quality standard, which in this case is going to be very, very hard to meet, the next step is implementing controls," Andary said. "We think we are already well controlled."

Martin said the new standards, if adopted, would eventually lead to new regulations but not for another decade at least. Before then, Martin said, California would seek to meet the looser but penalty-enforced EPA standards.

"There's not much wind in the sails of the argument these standards will drive new regulations, because we have so far to go," Martin said.

Only one California county, Lake, currently meets EPA PM10 standards.

The board will also consider imposing for the first time annual standards for particles 2.5 microns across and smaller. The subclass of even tinier pollutants are commonly produced by the burning of fuels and are believed to be especially toxic.

The panel had intended to impose daily averages for the smaller particles as well but delayed action following the discovery by researchers at Johns Hopkins University that a software glitch may have led to overestimates of any rise in mortality rates attributable to the particles, which can lodge deep in the lungs.

That software was used in recommending standards for daily averages but not the annual averages. The Air Resources Board said it will take a year of additional research before it can recommend daily average standards for PM2.5 pollution.

UC Davis newspaper editor could be fired for parody issue

By The Associated Press

DAVIS — The spoof issue of the University of California, Davis, student newspaper, an annual mix of mischief and journalism, has sparked complaints about sexual and racial references that could lead to an overhaul of the paper's operations and a firing of the editor in chief.

Responding to complaints about the year-end parody section, the student-dominated Campus Media Board agreed Tuesday to consider firing the editor in chief, Fitz Vo.

Vo assumed leadership of the California Aggie on June 1. The section that triggered the complaints, a six-page insert called "The Ivory Basement," appeared June 7, the last day of regular classes.

One of the most controversial items was an image of a phallic symbol digitally superimposed in the middle of a photo of children playing on the campus' two "egghead" sculptures.

Another photo showed a white student

holding a knife while eyeing an African American student who was the student government president last year.

Alice Hannam, a UC Davis staff member who is head of the media board, called the section "mean-spirited, incredibly juvenile and, in a couple instances, ugly."

Vo, a 20-year-old majoring in communications and math, said he is guilty of lapses in judgment. The Vietnamese American junior, who listed himself in the parody issue as "editor in chink," said the issue was "not indicative of what I intend to do in my tenure at the Aggie."

He asked the board to let him stay on the job and consider hiring a faculty adviser to work with the newspaper. Vo said he doesn't want "to jeopardize the Aggie's journalistic integrity."

This isn't the first outcry over an edition of the Aggie. An editorial cartoon in a regular edition of the newspaper in 1999 printed a cartoon depicting an explosion at the campus' Hart Hall, a building housing ethnic studies departments.

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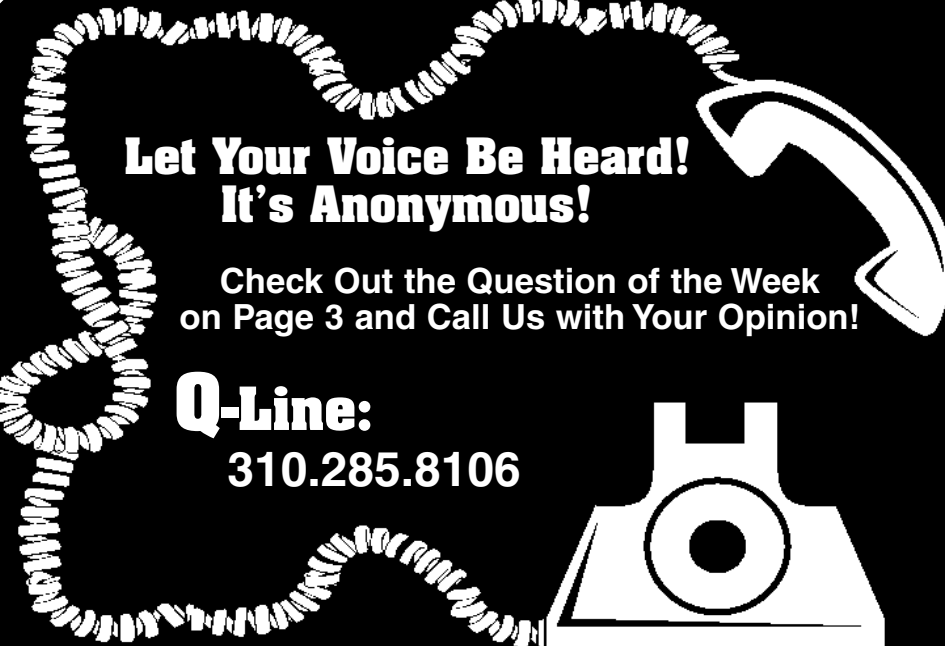
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Krayzelberg have in common?**
as quoted in USA Today

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NATIONAL

Thousands flee Arizona forest fire, blaze worsens

BY ROBERT WELLER
Associated Press Writer

As many as 4,000 people were ordered out of their homes Wednesday as a wind-whipped wildfire exploded to nearly 19,000 acres as it leaped from treetop to treetop in the mountains of eastern Arizona.

Authorities ordered the tiny towns of Linden, Pinedale and Clay Springs evacuated, said Kartha Icenhour of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The fire is about 110 miles northeast of Phoenix.

The news came as a federal grand jury in Colorado charged a U.S. Forest Service employee with arson in the largest fire in the state's history.

The Arizona fire had been burning on 600 acres early Wednesday before winds sent it racing through thousands of acres of juniper and pine trees. Officials feared it would soon bear down on the three hamlets, and smoke could be seen in Show Low, a community 20 miles away from the flames.

"It's smokier than you would ever believe outside," said Linda Parrish, owner of the Show Low Flower Shoppe. "It's a big, black thundercloud with red tinges to it. It's an awful, ugly looking smoke cloud."

Parrish said she and her husband had already packed their most important possessions in case they had to flee. Evacuation centers were being set up at schools in the region.

Gov. Jane Hull declared a state of emergency to free up state funds to fight the blaze, which began Tuesday and was being investigated as possible arson.

The fire was one of 16 major blazes burning across the nation Wednesday, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. Overall, wildfires have scorched 1.75 million acres so far this year, more than double the 10-year average on this date.

There were also evacuations in New Mexico, where authorities went door-to-door in Pecos, southeast of Santa Fe, to clear 20 families from their homes in advance of a 2,200-acre wildfire.

In Colorado, veteran Forest Service worker Terry Barton was charged with deliberately setting the Hayman fire southwest of Denver, which has grown to 135,000 acres, destroyed at least 25 houses and forced 7,500 people from their homes since June 8.

The charges were filed after prosecutors expressed doubt in her story that the fire got out of hand as she burned a letter from her estranged husband.

The stunning news came as Colorado crews desperately looked for an edge against two huge wildfires burning out of control, taking hope from slightly lower temperatures and weaker winds. The fires — the largest in state history — have gobbled up thousands of new acres this week.

The Hayman fire ballooned by 22,000 acres on Tuesday, and it sent a yellow haze over parts of the metropolitan area again Wednesday.

"We're hoping it doesn't make the big gains today it made yesterday," fire information officer Bobby Kitchens said.

Authorities warned that a 44,320-acre fire in the state's southwestern corner could grow to more than 100,000 acres. Smoke and haze drifted over the Durango area as the fire burned in forests around two reservoirs. It has destroyed at least 10 homes and six buildings, and more than 2,400 people have been evacuated.

Crews were more focused on saving homes than battling the fire itself because it was spreading so quickly.

"We're a long way from having a handle on the fire," information officer Mark Morrow said. "We don't want to lose homes that have already been saved once."

Another fire erupted Wednesday about 70 miles east of Durango, forcing 300 people to flee their homes near the community of South Fork.

The situation in Colorado was so drastic that President Bush declared the two large fires a major disaster and ordered federal aid to help state and local efforts in areas hit by wildfires since April 23. Federal funding will include disaster housing, grants, and other programs.

Fast food survey: A few pennies purchase extra calories and fat

By The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Super-sized fast food meals may cost just a few cents more, but they are no bargain when it comes to calories, a study shows.

The report released Tuesday found that the so-called extra-value meals present a significant obstacle to overcoming America's growing obesity problem.

"Bigger is rarely better when it comes to food. The true price of larger portions is larger calorie and saturated fat numbers — and larger waistlines," said the report by the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity, a coalition of groups that promote health and fitness.

The survey found that a large order of fries at McDonald's cost 62 percent more than the smaller version but included 157 percent more calories. A Classic Cinnabon cinnamon roll costs 48 cents more than the \$2.01 Minibon but packs 370 more calories — double the Minibon — and has three times the fat.

The survey was conducted in Des

Moines; Washington; Little Rock, Ark.; Oakland, Calif.; and Sacramento, Calif.

Nationwide, 60 percent of adults are overweight, and an estimated 300,000 people a year die from illnesses caused or worsened by excessive weight. Diabetes is linked to obesity, and overweight people are at greater risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, kidney failure and several forms of cancer.

One consumer advocacy group, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, thinks fast-food restaurants should be required to post the calorie content of their meals next to the price.

The restaurant and soft-drink industries believe they are being unfairly blamed for the nation's obesity problem. Lack of exercise is the real problem, they say.

"A steady diet of positive messages on the benefits of exercise and nutrition education is the best way to address the complex issue of obesity," said Steven Anderson, chief executive of the National Restaurant Association.

NATIONAL



Dispute may hold up terrorism insurance bill

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A dispute over whether to insulate businesses from paying punitive damages has become a major barrier in passing legislation that would help allay costs of insurance coverage against future terror attacks.

The Democratic-controlled Senate, passing a terrorism insurance bill Tuesday by a vote of 84-14, refused to shield companies from punitive damages. The Republican-controlled House passed legislation last November that limits lawsuits and bans punitive damages.

Both bills would provide government backing for insurance companies forced to cover astronomical claims following terrorist attacks like those on Sept. 11. Following the attacks, many insurers limited or dropped

coverage for casualty and property losses to terrorism because insurance companies faced record payouts of \$30 billion to \$50 billion.

Senate Democrats say there is room for compromise with House Republicans. "The president wants this bill, the House wants this bill, we want this bill," said Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Republicans accused Democrats of trying to protect trial lawyers, who are major Democratic contributors. Democrats said Republicans were looking out for businesses that are major GOP donors.

President Bush said any legislation must include limits on lawsuits.

"The final terrorism insurance package must include reasonable litigation procedures so that Americans who are victimized by terrorism do not also fall victim to predatory lawsuits and punitive damages," Bush said.

The House has passed legislation under which the government would help insurers continue to offer terror insurance by agreeing to pick up, for at least one year, 90 percent of losses in any major attack.

Under the Senate bill, the insurance industry would have to pay \$10 billion of insurance costs for terror attacks for two years. Beyond that level, the government would cover 90 percent with the insurance industry paying the remaining 10 percent.

There would be a \$100 billion cap; the secretary would have to go to Congress if costs exceeded that.

The Treasury secretary could extend the program for a third year, in which case the industry would be responsible for the first \$20 billion in costs. The bill also would help some individual companies well before the \$10 billion threshold kicks in, said Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, leading him and 13 other Republicans to vote against the bill.

House panel approves bill to put guns in airline cockpits

BY JONATHAN D. SALANT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers moved closer to a confrontation with the Bush administration over guns in airplane cockpits as a House panel endorsed legislation that could arm more than 1,000 pilots in the next two years.

The House Transportation Committee's aviation subcommittee vote Wednesday runs counter to the administration's decision last month not to allow the arming of pilots. Similar legislation also has been introduced in the Senate.

Bipartisan groups of lawmakers in both houses are trying to overturn the decision of Transportation Security Administration head John Magaw to keep guns out of the cockpit. They are supported by the pilots' unions and the powerful National Rifle Association, itself a Bush ally.

Though the bill has a long way to go before it reaches Bush's desk, the panel's overwhelming voice-vote support illustrates how popular the idea appears to be on Capitol Hill despite the administration's opposition.

"It's a difference in policy between the bureaucrats and the elected officials," said subcommittee chairman John Mica, R-Fla. "I think we're closer to the people."

Republican and Democratic lawmakers on the aviation subcommittee worked out a compromise that would set up a two-year test program. During that period, up to 1,400 pilots — 2 percent of the work force — could volunteer to undergo training and obtain permission to carry guns on board an airplane they are piloting. Priority would be given to pilots with military or law enforcement backgrounds. Flight attendants would get separate self-defense training.

After two years, the Transportation Security Administration would decide whether to end the program, continue it, or expand it.

"Nothing else can provide the deterrence or effectiveness of a weapon wielded by a highly trained individual," Mica said.

Airline pilots have been pushing for the right to carry guns, and Air Line Pilots Association President Duane Woerth praised the House panel's action Wednesday.

"We give this bipartisan compromise our full support, and we thank all the legislators involved for allowing this issue to go forward," Woerth said.

The NRA, meanwhile, is urging its members to call the administration and Congress.

"Just as we trust pilots to be able to fly a complicated aircraft, we can trust them to be able to use a firearm as a last line of

defense against terrorist hijackers," the NRA said.

While legislation progresses in the House, the bill is opposed by the head of the Senate panel with jurisdiction over the issue, Commerce Committee Chairman Ernest Hollings, D-S.C.

But senators who support arming pilots are trying to bypass the committee and offer the bill as an amendment to other legislation, possibly the defense authorization bill now on the Senate floor or the Transportation Department spending bill.

"We feel we have great support within the Senate for this because no one wants to be seen as anti-terrorism and anti-guns," said Eric Bovim, a spokesman for Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont.

Ironically, the Bush administration's allies on this issue are Democrats who usually oppose the White House.

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NATIONAL

Study: Finback whale songs may be mating calls

BY ALEX DOMINGUEZ
Associated Press Writer

Scientists lowered microphones into the Pacific Ocean and came up with evidence suggesting that the booming songs sung by finback whales are mating calls, rather than sonar-like navigation signals.

The findings raise concerns that shipping noises and other manmade sounds at sea could interfere with the whales' breeding.

The recordings made in the Sea of Cortez off Mexico's Baja Peninsula found that the deep, low-frequency calls are made exclusively by males, said Alejandro Acevedo, a marine biologist at the California Academy of Sciences and co-author of a study in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

The researchers said the calls may alert females that prey has been found, giving males the opportunity to court the females when they arrive to feed.

If the sounds are in fact mating calls, noise pollution from shipping, seismic surveys and military sonar could be making it more difficult for male and female finback whales to find each other, the

researchers said.

Finback, or fin, whales are second only to blue whales in size, growing up to 88 feet and 70 tons. They are found in all the world's oceans and are the fastest of the great whales, earning them the nickname the "greyhound of the sea."

The researchers recorded the whales by towing a long array of underwater microphones that allowed them to pinpoint which whale was singing.

Other researchers have previously suggested the songs were either used as mating calls or as sonar-like signals to help the whales find their way.

The recordings "very clearly tip the balance of evidence to suggest it is used by males as a reproductive advertisement display," said Peter Tyack, a scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Tyack agreed that the findings raise concerns about shipping noise.

While military sonar is used intermittently, shipping noise is continuous. Shippers, however, can easily make their vessels quieter through better maintenance of engines, propellers and other equipment, Tyack said.

Singer Billy Joel checks into drug, mental hospital

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK — Billy Joel has checked himself into a substance abuse and psychiatric hospital for a "personal problem," his record label said Wednesday.

The 53-year-old, Grammy-winning singer-songwriter is staying at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, Conn. Joel's stay was first reported in Wednesday's editions of The Advocate of Stamford.

A brief statement released by Columbia Records said: "Billy Joel recently checked himself into Silver Hill Hospital for a planned 10-day stay to deal with a specific and personal problem that had recently developed.

"Joel scheduled his stay in Silver Hill several weeks ago and expects to leave in a few days, as planned."

The Advocate, citing unidentified sources, said the singer was receiving counseling at Silver Hill's chemical dependency treatment center.

A spokeswoman for the singer, Claire

Mercuri, declined to comment on the kind of treatment Joel is receiving.

Joel, whose hits include "Piano Man," "Just the Way You Are," "Only the Good Die Young" and "Uptown Girl," in March rescheduled a joint tour with Elton John, saying he was ill. The tour is to begin again in September.

A review in The New York Times of a show shortly before the postponement described him as rambling and bellowing, and said Joel "seemed to have ingested something quite a bit stronger than cough syrup."

He was placed under a doctor's supervision for acute laryngitis, inflamed vocal cords and an upper-respiratory infection, according to Sony Entertainment's Billy Joel Web site, www.billyjoel.com.

Mercuri said Joel's stay at Silver Hill would not affect his fall tour.

Joel, a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is divorced, and has a 16-year-old daughter, Alexa, from his marriage to Christie Brinkley.

Fans of M&M's choose candy's new color; purple

By The Associated Press

TRENTON, NJ — The results are in: purple reigns.

The maker of M&M's said Wednesday that purple will be the latest color for the little chocolate candies. The decision came after more than 10 million people in 200 countries voted on the Internet and over the phone on whether to add purple, pink or aqua to the mix.

"Our consumers have spoken. Purple it is," said Paul Michaels, president of Masterfoods USA in Hackettstown.

Purple received 41 percent of the vote. Aqua had 37 percent and pink had 19 percent. Purple will join the existing mix of red, blue, brown, green, orange and yellow in August.

The new color was the subject of a star-studded New York gala Wednesday night with performances by Ashanti and Wyclef Jean.

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INTERNATIONAL

Suicide bomber kills six more in Jerusalem



Elizabeth Dalziel/Associated Press

Religious volunteers collect body parts at the scene of a suicide bomb attack in a northern Jerusalem neighborhood on Wednesday. A suicide bomber jumped out of a car, dashed past two policemen and ran to a bus stop before blowing himself up and killing at least seven other people Wednesday evening. More than 35 people were wounded.

U.S. troops may need to stay in Afghanistan another year

BY LEE KEATH

Associated Press Writer

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — U.S. troops may need to remain in Afghanistan at least another year to finish their mission of destroying the al-Qaida terror network and the Taliban militia, a U.S. military spokesman said Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill, who took command of the Afghan campaign June 1, believes hundreds of al-Qaida and Taliban fighters — perhaps up to 1,000 — continue to operate in Afghanistan and Pakistan, spokesman Col. Roger King said.

Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has told McNeill that the mission to eliminate those remaining al-Qaida and Taliban fighters “could last for a year to 18 months” from the start of June, King said, “and (McNeill) agreed with that.”

“That’s not set in stone. If we make an assessment sooner that the mission has been completed, then we’ll talk about withdrawing,” King said.

About 7,000 Americans are currently deployed in the Afghan campaign, leading a coalition force with around 5,000 troops from other nations.

Britain’s contingent — the second-largest in the coalition, with around 1,700 troops — is expected to begin withdrawing from Afghanistan in late June or early July.

King would not comment on how a British withdrawal would effect the U.S.-led campaign.

In the past few months, the mission against al-Qaida and the Taliban has turned into a frustrating hunt for fighters who are thought to have hidden among the local population or slipped to relative safety across the border into Pakistan.

U.S. special forces and British commandos have been searching the border region but have found few fighters in recent weeks.

The difficulty of the hunt could require the longer U.S. presence, King said. “Because (al-Qaida and the Taliban) have broken up into small groups, it’s a harder process,” he said.

“How long does it take to find these groups

and convince them to stop their activities? You can stop them by killing them or by changing hearts and minds,” he said. “It might happen quickly, it might not.”

At the same time, U.S. special forces have been training the nascent Afghan national army to be able to maintain stability when coalition forces eventually leave.

“How long does it take to find these groups and convince them to stop their activities? You can stop them by killing them or by changing hearts and minds.”

— ROGER KING
Military spokesman

Meanwhile, a grand council to choose a transitional government wound up Wednesday with President Hamid Karzai reappointing the interim government’s defense and foreign ministers. He also named a Pashtun governor as interior minister and his top adviser to be finance minister for the next 18 months until elections are held.

In a speech to the 1,650 loya jirga delegates, Karzai named 14 ministers, and appointed three deputy presidents and a chief justice to the country’s highest court.

The appointments addressed a concern of many delegates that the top three Cabinet posts had been held by ethnic Tajiks from the Panjshir Valley, one-time members of the northern alliance of opposition groups that fought the Taliban militia. Many delegates felt the government did not reflect Afghanistan’s ethnic makeup.

The grand council approved Karzai’s Cabinet appointments by a show of hands, and the historic meeting ended after opening a day late and running three days over.

BY SUSAN SEVAREID

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — A suicide bomber sprang from a car, slipped past a pair of policemen and blew himself up at a busy Jerusalem intersection Wednesday, killing at least six other people in the second deadly attack in the city in two days.

Responding, Israeli forces early Thursday entered a suburb of the West Bank town of Ramallah. The Israeli military had no immediate comment. Palestinian witnesses said tanks circled a house in Beitunia, where soldiers apparently planned to make arrests.

Shortly after the suicide attack, Israeli helicopters fired rockets at metal workshops in the Gaza Strip used to manufacture weapons. Thirteen Palestinians were hurt, two seriously, Palestinian doctors said.

A group tied to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat’s Fatah faction, the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing, according to Al Manner television station run out of Lebanon by the militant Islamic group Hezbollah.

Israel said early Wednesday that it would seize and hold parts of Palestinian territory in retaliation for terror attacks, and troops moved into three West Bank towns.

In Washington, President Bush decided to hold off revealing his plan for a future Palestinian state. Administration officials said an announcement at this sensitive time would be unlikely to have a positive effect. Aides said the announcement may be delayed until next week.

A trip to the Middle East next week by Secretary of State Colin Powell also was put on hold, though it remained under consideration. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon adamantly opposes any form of Palestinian statehood at this time, and blames Arafat for failing to stop the attacks.

In one of his strongest condemnations ever, Pope John Paul II decried Tuesday’s attack, saying “those who plot and plan such barbarous attacks will have to answer before God.”

More than 50 prominent Palestinians signed a full-page newspaper ad in al Quds news urging groups behind deadly assaults on Israeli civilians to “stop sending our young people to carry out such attacks.”

On Wednesday, the bomber emerged from a red Audi and dashed toward a concrete bus stop shelter, which is also used as a hitchhiking post. The intersection has been targeted by assailants in the past and was heavily guarded.

But the attacker made it past a pair of border policemen.

“The police chased him to try to stop him, and when he got to the (bus stop), he blew up a large device,” said Jerusalem Police Chief Mickey Levy.

One policeman chasing the bomber was badly hurt, Levy said. More than 35 people were wounded, many of them seriously.

Body parts and shattered glass littered the street, and religious volunteers propped a ladder against a stone wall and picked through the shrubbery for bits of human remains.

An overturned baby carriage was covered with black plastic by rescue workers. Government spokesman Danny Seaman said a baby wasn’t among the dead, but one had been rushed to a hospital.

The newspaper ad, whose signers included legislator Hanna Ashram and the Palestinians’ senior Jerusalem official, Sari Nusseibeh, said: “We see no results in such attacks, but a deepening of the hatred between both peoples and a deepening of the gap between us.”

The ad urged all Palestinians who support such a call to sign on. Polls consistently have found the majority of Palestinians support suicide bombings, but less strongly since Israel’s recent six-week military campaign in the West Bank.

That shift hasn’t gone unnoticed.

“I have begun to discern developments on the Palestinian side that they are, for the first time, doing some soul-searching about ‘What have we done? What have we achieved?’” Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Jewish delegates to an annual Zionist Congress in Jerusalem.

Israeli troops, meanwhile, fortified their positions in the northern West Bank, suggesting plans for an extended stay. The move came after the government announced it was prepared to reoccupy Palestinian areas in response to attacks. Tuesday’s bombing on a Jerusalem bus killed 19 people, the worst in Jerusalem in six years.

Hamas claimed responsibility for Tuesday’s blast in a leaflet saying it was prepared for a prolonged offensive against Israel that it called “the war of the buses.” Hamas, based in Gaza, boasted it had dozens of suicide bombers waiting to strike.

Hamas spokesman Ismail Abu Shanab said shortly before Wednesday’s blast that in light of Sharon’s plans to reoccupy Palestinian land, more suicide bombings were on the way.

“I can guarantee that, and I say he will create the best atmosphere for resistance,” Abu Shanab said.

The Palestinian leadership condemned the attack Wednesday, but Israel again held Arafat responsible.

“We will of course take whatever action necessary in order to continue to protect the citizens of Israel,” Israeli government spokesman Arieh Mekel said.

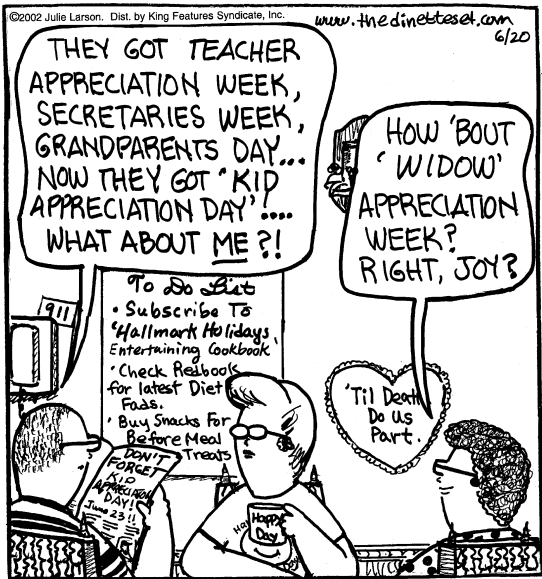
Israel says Arafat is responsible because his security forces have not prevented the attacks, and has retaliated by targeting Arafat’s offices, as well as other buildings used by the Palestinian government and security forces.

Palestinian Cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman condemned Wednesday’s attack, as the Palestinian Authority routinely does with such bombings. But he said Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land was the underlying cause of the violence.

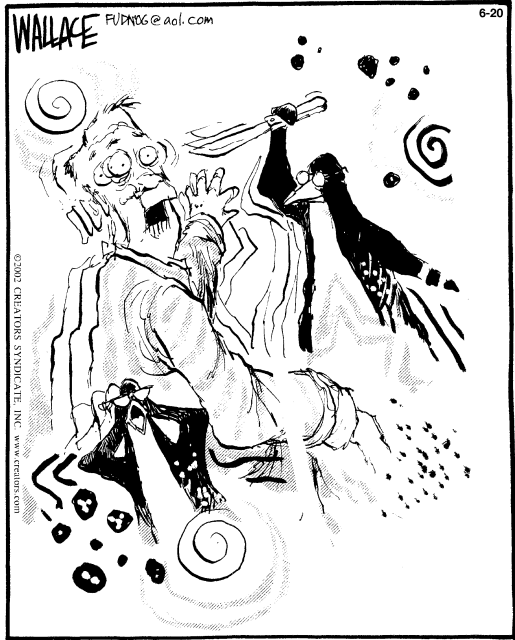
“We all denounce any operation against civilians — if they are Palestinians or Israelis — but the Israeli government should ask itself about what they are doing today ... and their decision to reoccupy our cities,” he said.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



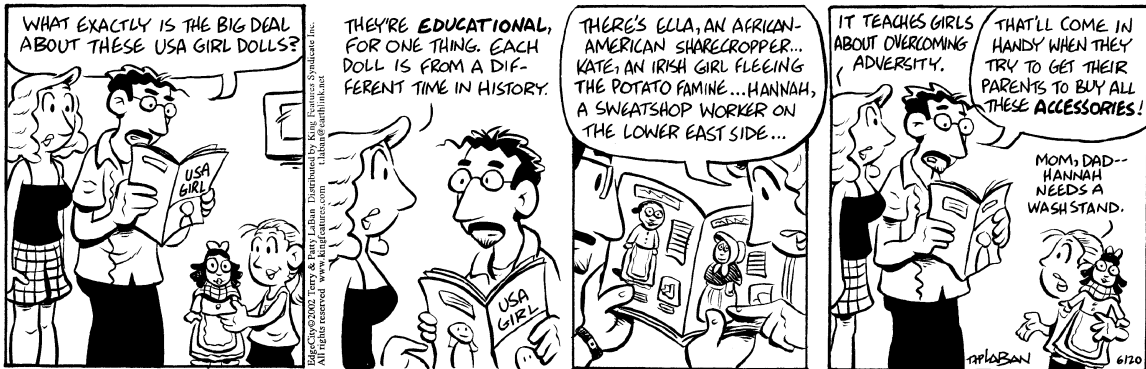
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AT THE REALITY THEME PARK

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Clerk's concern
5 Gets a goal
11 Scent
12 Ness nemesis
13 Light gas
14 New York tribe
15 Rests
17 Fire product
18 Holds power
22 "Cape Fear" star
24 Go bad
25 French friend
26 Raw rock
27 Chopper rider
30 Like some potatoes
32 Quarterback Young
33 Olympics chant
34 Missionaries
38 Awkwardly stiff
41 Ready for eating
42 Start a new paragraph
43 Pizzeria feature
44 Must
45 Bit of funding

DOWN

- 1 Layout choice
2 Brainstorm
3 Ringer
4 Painter Lawson
5 Highlander
6 Chair fixers
7 Become friendlier
8 King of France
9 Terminus
10 Poseidon's realm
16 Haggard book
19 "Pay attention!"
20 Emerald Isle
21 Toboggan's kin
22 Collars
23 Leave out
28 Steered clear of
29 Turn from sin
30 School carrier

P	I	T	A		S	C	O	L	D	S
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Yesterday's answer

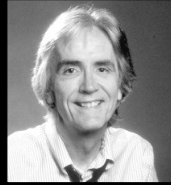
- 31 Texas ballplayers
35 Aware of
36 Fencing weapon
37 Transmit
38 Take the title
39 Count start
40 Poem of exaltation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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38	39	40					41		
42							43		
44							45		

6-20

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

9-year-old daughter killed over \$266 worth of shoplifted groceries

According to police in Woodinville, Wash., when Anita Durrett, 42, tried to speed away in her car with \$266 worth of groceries shoplifted from an Albertson's store, an employee pursued her in his car, and when Durrett lost control and crashed at 90 mph, her 9-year-old daughter, riding in the front seat, was killed. Though Durrett has been convicted of vehicular manslaughter, she filed a wrongful-death lawsuit in May against Albertson's, claiming that they should not have chased her.



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Computer Services

DURING THE day I work in High Technology Management. Everyone in the company relies on me for my computer expertise. I would rather work on my own. Digital Duchess 799-4929.

COMPUTER TUTOR for beginners. E-mail, basic word processing, personal assistant. Judy, (310)451-1319. Very patient, \$20/hr.

Lost & Found

LOST: AT corner, 7th & Montana, Friday June 14. Roven Dino Chronograph watch, stainless. My 40th birthday present. Reward. Call David (310)699-3219.

Classified Advertising Conditions

DOLLAR-A-DAY NON COMMERCIAL: Ad must run a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 530 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 200. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

The chronicles of

The FunHog

Read about his latest adventures every Monday
in the Santa Monica Daily Press

The Calendar

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
About a Boy (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 *The Sum of all Fears* (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. *The Bourne Identity* (PG-13) 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Windtalkers (NR) 12:30, 4:00, 7:20, 10:40. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* (PG-13) 11:10, 12:45, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00, 7:30, 10:00. *Bad Company* (PG-13) 11:15, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. *Insomnia* (R) 11:00, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:45. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG) 11:20, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40. *Enough* (PG-13) 2:00, 10:15.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Spider-Man (PG-13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55. *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones* (PG) 12:30, 1:10, 3:35, 4:15, 6:45, 7:25, 9:55, 10:25. *Scooby Doo* (PG) 12:15, 1:00, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15. *Undercover Brother* (PG-13) 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:35. *Unfaithful* (R) 9:30, 10:20. *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron* (G) 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:20.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Thirteen Conversations About One Thing (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30. *Monsoon Wedding* (NR) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Y Tu Mama Tambien (NR) 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15. *Dogtown and Z-Boys* (PG-13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55. *The Importance of Being Earnest* (PG) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45. *Cherish* (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10.

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Today

community

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

entertainment

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the

most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

Sean Franks, 9:00 pm, Elijah Emanuel & The Revelations, 10:15 pm, Los Pinguos, 11:30 pm. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

The Samurai HomeBoys. The West End. 1301 5th Street Santa Monica, (310)394-4647.

Komdey Krunch. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

theatre

Santa Monica Playhouse is proud to present Picon Pie! The World Premiere of a joyous and poignant musical play about the life and loves of legendary Molly Picon. Admission is \$23.50. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)394-9779 or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Friday

community

Santa Monica Antiques Show and Sale will be held today at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium located at 1855 Main Street, Santa Monica. 12 p.m. To 8 p.m. Admission is \$6.00. Senior

Citizens \$3.00. For more information please call (310)458-8551.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

arts/ theatre

SMARTS - Santa Monica Arts in the schools. Malia Oliver and kindergarten and first grade students from McKinley Elementary present a final dance performance developed through their science studies. 1 p.m., 18th St. Arts Complex, Santa Monica. (310)453-3711.

entertainment

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14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040.

Santa Monica College Emeritus College Band will present "Sounds of Trumpets" - a concert featuring performers ranging from Louis Armstrong to Henry Fillmore at 7:30 p.m. SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Admission and parking are free. For further information. Call (310)474-5271 or (310)434-4306.

Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart. 8 pm. \$15. McCabe's Guitar Shop. Pico at 31st. (310)828-4403. Sunset Promotions & Temple Bar Presents: Todd Washington, 9:00 pm, Delta Nove, 10:15 pm, Critical Brass Band, 11:30 pm. Temple Bar, 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310)393-6611.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.
Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

An unforgettable experience

By The Associated Press

MENOMONIE, Wis. — An elephant made an early exit from a circus performance and headed down Main Street, walking about two miles through the city before being corralled.

"All of a sudden the elephant doing a performance went over the ring and right through the center ring," said Shirley Kistner, who was attending the circus Monday with her 6-year-old granddaughter, Kaitlyn.

"People in the stands and everybody kind of scattered, and out the door it went."

After Mary the elephant broke loose at the Dunn County Recreation Park, the fire department responded with lights and sirens, prompting the 6-year-old elephant and her mother, 21-year-old Tory, to begin running in opposite directions, officials said.

Tory was quickly recaptured, but Mary wandered through the business district of Menomonie and the University of Wisconsin-Stout campus until authorities managed to block her way, Police Chief Dennis Beety said.

"People were just dumbfounded," firefighter Tim Koleski said. "It was amazing."

Elephant trainer Billy Morris used Tory to calm Mary and got both elephants loaded onto a semitrailer truck to take them back to the circus.

Disney may sue over 'book mouse'

By The Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. — Walt Disney Co. officials have until July 30 to decide whether to challenge the Genesee District Library's mascot for an alleged similarity to Mickey Mouse.

Last summer, the library submitted a trademark registry request with the U.S. Patent and Trademark office for "Book Mouse," a blue, large-eared rodent wearing

red-rimmed glasses and a backpack. Book Mouse appears on bumper stickers and in coloring books, and even marches in local parades.

In April, Disney got a 90-day extension to consider challenging the Book Mouse trademark.

"I can't imagine it's deceptively similar to any Disney character we're aware of," Library attorney Patric Parker told The Flint Journal for a Tuesday story.

Parker said he's confident that Disney will manage to survive the Book Mouse controversy.

"I don't think we cut into their movie profits this last year," he said.

Man sentenced to run marathon

By The Associated Press

PAINESVILLE, Ohio — A man who ran from police suddenly has a reason to put his running shoes back on.

Painesville Municipal Judge Michael Cicconetti ordered Michael Logar, 33, to run in a five-mile race on July 28 instead of serving six months in jail.

Logar admitted he ran from a car June 9 when a State Highway Patrol trooper stopped it after seeing Logar, a passenger, drinking a beer. He was charged with failure to comply and resisting arrest but pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of attempted obstruction of official business.

Cicconetti suspended 170 days of a 180-day jail sentence Monday on the condition that Logar run the race. The better Logar does in the race, the less time he will have to serve under house arrest.

Cicconetti said Logar's sentence is meant to send a message.

"Since he likes to run from police, I'm going to give him a chance to run away as hard as he can," Cicconetti said.

Logar will spend 10 days in jail with work-release privileges starting Tuesday and will be given up to four hours of training time daily to prepare for the race.

Cicconetti is known for giving unusual sentences. Earlier this year, he ordered a man who called a police officer a pig to stand in a pen with a 350-pound pig for two hours on a city sidewalk.

Mmm... cherry-flavored meat

By The Associated Press

CEDAR, Mich. — Most people have heard of Cherry Coke. But cherry steak?

Butcher Ray Pleva is launching the Rite Bite Steak, a chopped steak that joins his line of more than three dozen products that mix cherries in with sausage, bacon and other meats.

"There's nothing out there that can even hold a candle to this cherry steak. This has the taste and the convenience people in the food industry are looking for, plus the nutritional and added value of cherries," Pleva told the Traverse City Record-Eagle.

Pleva's cherry meats are touted as being lower in fat than meat alone. Also, cherries could replace some of the flavor that meats lose when fat is removed, according to the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station.

The cherry steak, made by Advance Foods of Enid, Okla., was developed by Pennsylvania food consultant Gene Gagliardi, whose company has created new product lines for such industry giants as Hormel and Tyson.

Gagliardi uses tougher cuts of beef, such as boneless chuck or round, cutting them into thin slices and reshaping them so their natural fibers interlock to form a firmer, meatier texture than a typical chopped steak.

Gagliardi had been looking for a way to enhance the flavor and nutritional value when he met Pleva at a seminar at Michigan State University, and heard about Michigan tart cherries.

"He agreed to take a sample back with him, and he was chewing his third bite when he called me," Pleva said.

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